

**NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
RETREAT MINUTES  
February 6- 7, 2025  
Lakemore Retreat & Resort  
Brown Cottage—1763 Memory Lane  
Traverse City, MI 49696**

**CALL TO ORDER**—Chair Laura J. Oblinger called the retreat meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. on February 6, 2025.

**ROLL CALL**

**Trustees present:** Laura J. Oblinger, Chris M. Bott, Mark B. Keely, Pamela T. Horne, Kenneth E. Warner, Andrew K. Robitshek

**Trustees absent:** Kennard R. Weaver

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Angie Morgan

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**—The agenda was accepted as presented.

**PUBLIC INPUT**—There was no public input offered.

**DISCUSSION: Board Development**—Angie Morgan facilitated discussion for trustees to learn more about each other, focus on “how” they work together, and commitments to serve as their operating principles.

**ADJOURNMENT**—The meeting adjourned for the day at 4:42 p.m. on February 6, 2025.

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**CALL TO ORDER**—Chair Laura J. Oblinger called the retreat meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. on February 7, 2025.

**ROLL CALL**

**Trustees present:** Laura J. Oblinger, Chris M. Bott, Mark B. Keely, Pamela T. Horne, Kenneth E. Warner, Andrew K. Robitshek

**Trustees absent:** Kennard R. Weaver

**Also present:** President Nick Nissley, Lynne Moritz, Stephen Siciliano, Hollie DeWalt, Marcus Bennett, Jason Slade, Troy Kierczynski, Todd Neibauer, Diana Fairbanks, Dino Hernandez, Molly Norville, Harry Burkholder

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**—The agenda was accepted as presented.

**PUBLIC INPUT**—There was no public input offered.

**DISCUSSION**—Chair Oblinger reviewed takeaways from the Board development session the previous day. In reviewing the morning agenda, Oblinger emphasized looking at the next five years’ priorities.

**Five Year Focus**—President Nissley reviewed his priorities for the next five years, which has been shared previously with trustees in written communications.

**Strategic Planning**—Jason Slade, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, reviewed the current strategic plan (NMC Next) which launched in January 2022. The 2021 strategic planning process was extremely comprehensive and included broad engagement from stakeholders; the process included refreshing the mission, vision, and values. Slade shared highlights of accomplishments from each of the five strategies. As NMC Next concludes in July 2025, the planning phase for the following plan is in its early stages. The planning that will occur this year will engage stakeholders, but not include some of the comprehensive elements from 2021, such as assessing mission, vision, and values. The draft high level strategies for the next plan are emerging as continuation of the NMC strategies with adjustments to objectives. There was discussion encouraging “transformational” goals and objectives, rather than small, incremental goals.

The next strategic plan will launch January 2026 and plan through June 2029. Beginning with the college’s existing priorities: Enrollment and Student Success, Campus Master Plan implementation (e.g., housing, Osterlin, UC), Campus Vibrancy, Brand Identity, 75th Anniversary & Sustainability, and we will build out from there. Slade noted that the 2021 process really laid the foundation for a 10-year strategic plan, but the college chose to set 3 year objective terms. There was discussion regarding the level to which a consultant may be engaged to facilitate or support the strategic planning process.

**Office of Possibilities (OOPS)**—Slade introduced the developments planned for OOPs 2.0 that will focus on innovation for education.

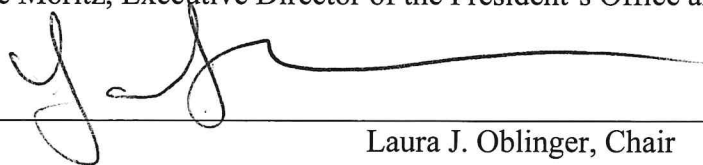
**TIF**—Harry Burkholder, Executive Director of the Traverse City Downtown Development Authority (DDA), presented on the DDA’s purpose and explained their authority and budget comes from the city commission. Burkholder provided examples of downtown infrastructure projects that the city and DDA share in funding. Following his presentation, Burkholder departed, and the trustees discussed the TIF process going forward.

**Other Discussion**—President Nissley reviewed communications from earlier in the week regarding executive orders pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and immigration.

**REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP REQUESTS**—Confirmed requests made by the Board that require administrative follow-up for information to be provided to the Board at a later date.

**ADJOURNMENT**—The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m. on February 7, 2025.

Recorded by Lynne Moritz, Executive Director of the President’s Office and Board Operations.

SIGNED  \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura J. Oblinger, Chair

ATTESTED  \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris M. Bott, Secretary